

Educational Services
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Hello everyone 😊

That was the quickest week ever! Our Christmas timetable is well underway, with so many activities taking place around the school and EYC! Everywhere is looking festive and cheery, and our trees are being well admired! Thanks again to Gordon Transport Solutions who very kindly donated our amazing 14ft real tree in our main hall!

Next week is a busy one, so please check the diary dates at the end of the round up to ensure that you know everything that is happening!



Well Done!

We are so proud of our dance group who took part in the South Ayrshire Dance Competition this week. Although not placed, they had so much fun and represented their school wonderfully!! Thanks also to Emma Lawrie from Ayr Academy who gave up her time to come along and coach the group!



P6 and P7 Musical Showcase

Pupils across p6 and 7 classes have been working with Mr Thomson each week on songs from Matilda the Musical. They are delighted to invite parents and carers into school on Wednesday 13th December, starting at 2:15pm for a performance of their songs!

In addition, pupils from P6 and 7 are invited to come along to Ayr Academy on Tuesday 19th December from 6pm till 7pm to take part in their Christmas concert. Pupil have already been issued with a letter and we encourage as many as possible to attend. Please return your tear off slip as soon as possible. Parents are invited to go along for the hour and enjoy the music and drama.



Literacy Parent / Carer Workshop

Thank you to those who attended the Parent Workshop on Tuesday. We would also like to thank Annie, Callum, Cassie and Robbie for showcasing their learning so well!!! Please look out for some information in your child's schoolbag around how parents can support reading at home, which will include a copy of the Alphabetic Code for every family. Some more information will come electronically too.



Parent Council

We have had a great response to the Parent Council activities so far! Thanks so much to the parents who gave up time to come into school at break times. We will announce the winners of the activities next week!

Raffle tickets have gone home to all families with some fantastic prizes up for grabs! Please send back any money, stubs and unused tickets to the school office as soon as you can. There are additional raffle tickets available from the office – just pop in or give us a call to have more sent home!

Secret Room – We are once again planning to have our Secret Room available for all children to allow them to purchase a small gift for a family member for Christmas at pocket money prices. Our children have really enjoyed this experience as they can choose and wrap a gift and take it home to put it under the tree.

We are collecting unwanted and unused gift sets, toiletries, mugs, chocolates, socks, gloves, fidgets, photo frames, make up - anything that you would think the children would like to buy. We will also be happy to accept donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, sellotapes and ribbons. Gifts will range from £1 -£3. Please send any donations into school. The Secret Room will be set up on 18th, 19th and 20th December.



Christmas Showcase

It will be so lovely to invite parents and carers to our Christmas Showcase this year! In order not to over fill our main hall however, we will run the Christmas Showcase in two sittings.

From 9:15 till 10:15, pupils in the EYC, P1, P1/2, P2/3, P3, P3/4 and P4 will take to the stage to perform a Christmas song. Parents and carers are welcome to come along. Doors will open from 9:00.

From 10:45 till 11:45, pupils in P5, P5/6, P6, P7C and P7E will take to the stage to perform a Christmas song. Parents and carers are welcome to come along.

Mince pies and coffee/tea will be available between 10:15 and 10:45 for any parents and carers who wish to attend both performances. This will also be available if you come along a little earlier or wish to stay on a little after the first performance



Christmas Parties

All P1-7 Christmas parties will be in the afternoons of the days set (see Christmas Calendar). Pupils may come to school dressed for their party on the day, or bring clothes to change into. Given we only have 45 minutes at lunchtime, it is very tight to have children

go home for lunch and be back in time and so staff will be on hand to help them change if they require support. Snack will be provided at the parties, and we are grateful to the Parent Council for supplying this.



On Monday 11th December pupils from the EYC-P7 will take part in a festive walk around the school and/or local community in order to raise funds for a national and local charity. We have teamed up with Ayr Rotary Club and other schools within the Ayr cluster to support the work of *Aquabox*. This is a charity which provides safe drinking water and humanitarian aid to people affected by natural disasters, extreme weather and conflicts.

We will be having a coin collection on this day where pupils can donate as little or as much as they like. All coins will go towards the purchase of water filters. Each filter costs £35 so even if our school brings enough loose change to cover the cost of one filter, we will be making a difference to the lives of people in war torn countries.

We would like all pupils to come to school wearing a Santa hat or any other festive headwear for their stroll. Pupils will encounter tasks and challenges on the way in order to solve a Christmas puzzle. We are still looking for parent helpers - if you can support, please contact the main office.



We are also supporting the work of the local charity The Night Before Christmas by being a drop off point for any donations.

You can drop off items such as:

- pyjamas
- cuddly toy, toys such as Lego, a doll, a football or board games
- toiletries
- a storybook, a colouring book and stationery
- hot chocolate and sweets
- hats, gloves and scarves
- perfume and aftershave, candles, handbags



Storytelling with Santa

We are inviting families of children in P1-4 to come along to school on Monday 11th December from 6pm till 7pm to join in with some storytelling with Santa. This festive event is for children to come along in their pyjamas, bringing a comfy blanket or cushion and soft toy with them if they wish. A parent or carer should come along with the children and enjoy the activities and refreshments. Santa has been practising reading some Christmas stories and has requested that we have hot chocolate and sweet treats available for everyone to enjoy! This is a free event, however we would like families to book in order that we can cater for everyone. Please sign up using this link, which will close at 4pm today!

<https://forms.office.com/e/D2PeBmWbpd>

We appreciate that some families may have child care issues for older siblings and if this is the case, older siblings can come along too, however all children must come along with an adult.



Panto

This year, we are visiting the Gaiety Theatre, Ayr for their performance of Cinderella. This will be on Wednesday 13th December. Buses will leave school as soon after 9am as possible and so we ask that children are prompt in arriving at school. Our thanks go once again to Parent Council for providing payment for the buses there and back. All pupils will receive a snack at the panto, and so there is no need for them to bring one with them.



Christmas Lunch

Massive thanks go to our amazing catering team for preparing Christmas Lunch for tP1-7 yesterday! It was really delicious, and what a party atmosphere we had in our hall! Staff also enjoyed a delicious lunch, and the opportunity to actually sit down together to eat! Look out for pictures of the Christmas Lunch on X (formerly Twitter).

The EYC will have their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 13th December.



Nativity

The children in the EYC will perform A Wriggly Nativity on Monday 11th December at 2:00pm. Doors will open at 1:45pm. All morning and afternoon children will perform the nativity at this time.



News from the EYC (provided by Kelly 😊)

Exciting times ahead!

Get ready for a very eventful fortnight! We don't want anyone to miss out, so here's a rundown of what's coming up:

Monday, December 11th: Santa Stroll in the school playground and Nativity at 2pm (doors open at 1.45pm).

Tuesday, December 12th: The 2 year olds trip to Gemmell's. Drop off at Gemmell's at 9.30am, pick up at 11.30am.

Wednesday, December 13th: Fussy Eating workshop at 9.15am. If you'd like to attend, please add your name to the list during pick-up. It's also Christmas lunch on the same day.

Friday, December 15th: The 3-5 year olds trip to Cutty Sark.

Wednesday, December 20th: EYC-P4 Christmas Showcase Rehearsal. THIS IS ONLY FOR CHILDREN, PARENTS DO NOT ATTEND

Thursday, December 21st: EYC-P4 Christmas Showcase. ALL PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND

Friday, December 22nd: EYC Christmas Party.

So much to look forward to!



Trailblazers

Our school was selected to take part in the pilot of Trailblazers, an active school travel initiative. The pilot is funded by Transport Scotland and will be independently evaluated by Aecom in December. The initiative involves signs being placed along popular routes to school highlighting the time it takes to walk to school from that point. This will either be 5 or 10 minutes. If you live a significant distance from the school you can still drive to a safe location near a sign and walk, cycle or scoot from there. Along the route, parents/carers can scan the Trailblazer QR code on lamp post stickers which will take you to a daily message from the character Blaze, the pony.

From Monday 13th November until Friday 8th December, the JRSO's will be issuing prizes to pupils who are walking, scooting or cycling to school regularly each week. We are very aware that 10% of our pupils travel to school in a taxi/minibus and are therefore at an unfair advantage. Our JRSO Committee plan to feed this back to Aecom during the evaluation visit in December. All bus children will have the opportunity to win a Trailblazer prize during our Santa Stroll.

We are completing the Trailblazers Evaluation today and our JRSO group will meet with the Aecom representative to share their views about the project!!!



Diary Dates

We will try and give as much advance notice of school events as we can to help fit in with your family plans. This list is subject to change, and is not exhaustive. We have added a number of things to the Diary Dates this week!

Monday 11 th December	Santa Stroll and Coin Collection for Aqua Box EYC Nativity 2pm Santa Storytelling p1-4 6pm-7pm
Tuesday 12 th December	EYC Outing to Gemmell's Garden Centre (2 year old room)
Wednesday 13 th December	Cinderella Panto at The Gaiety P1-P7 EYC Christmas Lunch P6 & P7 Musical Showcase 2:15pm
Thursday 14 th December	P5 Christmas Party

Friday 15 th December	EYC Outing to Cutty Sark, Ayr (3-5 year old room) P4 Christmas Party
Monday 18 th December	Secret Room for P1-4 P3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	Secret Room for P5-7 P2 Christmas Party Ayr Academy Christmas Concert 6pm-7pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Secret Room extra P1 Christmas Party
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas Service EYC-P4 9:15-10:15 and P5-7 10:45-11:45 P6 Christmas Party P7 Christmas Disco in school, 7-9pm
Friday 22 nd December	EYC Party School closes at 2:30pm
Monday 8 th January	School reopens Start of Scottish Culture focus
Tuesday 16 th January	P7 Ayr Academy Challenge Day 3
Tuesday 30 th January	P7 Burns Supper
Thursday 1 st February	Dolphin House meeting for P7 parents 3:15
Friday 2 nd February	Scots Verse Competition
Monday 12 th February	Holiday
Tuesday 13 th February	In Service – School and EYC closed
Monday 19 th Feb – Thursday 22 nd Feb	Dolphin House Week 1 P7C
Friday 23 rd February	House Assembly
Monday 26 th Feb – Thursday 29 th Feb	Dolphin House Week 2 P7E
Tuesday 27 th February	P7 Ayr Burns Club Burns Supper
Tuesday 19 th March	P7 Ayr Academy Challenge Day 4
Monday 18 th -Friday 22 nd March	Ayr Cluster Climate Change Campaign
Wednesday 20 th March	Annual Reports to parents
Wednesday 27 th March	Parent Appointments
Thursday 28 th March	School closes at 2:30 for holidays
Monday 15 th April	School Reopens
Friday 19 th April	P5 Bike Checks
Monday 22 nd April	Ayr United in school for South Ayrshire Reads
Friday 26 th April	P5 Bikeability 1 House Assembly
Friday 3 rd May	P5 Bikeability 2
Thursday 2 nd May	Inservice – School and EYC closed
Monday 6 th May	Holiday
Friday 10 th May	P5 Bikeability 3
Thursday 16 th May	P7 Careers Fair
Friday 17 th May	P5 Bikeability 4
Thursday 23 rd May	P5 Bikeability 5
Friday 24 th May	Holiday
Monday 27 th May	Holiday
Thursday 30 th May	P5 Bikeability 6
Wednesday 29 th May	EYC to P1 Transition 1
Friday 31 st May	School Sports Morning House Assembly
Thursday 6 th June	P5 Bikeability 7
Wednesday 5 th June	EYC to P1 Transition 2
Friday 7 th June	P4-7 Sports Championship Events
Monday 10 th June	Parent Drop In 3:15-5:15

Tuesday 11 th June	P7 to S1 Transition 1
Wednesday 12 th June	P7 to S1 Transition 2 EYC to P1 Transition 3 Whole School Bump Up
Sunday 16 th June	School Show Rehearsal
Monday 17 th June	School Show
Tuesday 18 th June	School Show
Thursday 13 th June	P5 Bikeability 8
Tuesday 18 th June	House Netball
Thursday 20 th June	House Football
Friday 21 st June	House Treat
Monday 24 th June	Potted Sports
Wednesday 26 th June	P7 Leavers service P7 Leavers Disco - evening
Thursday 27 th June	P7 Treat day
Friday 28 th June	Close for holidays at 1pm